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Daily News Analysis

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General studies: 3

3 years on, a mere 30% of PoshanAbhiyaan funds used

Why in News?

- Report on fund utilization in the POSHAN Abhiyaan program.

Key points:

- The Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition or POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission), is the Government of India's flagship programme which is aimed at improving nutritional outcomes among pregnant women, lactating mothers and children. It would benefit an estimated 10 crore people.
- It aims at reducing the level of stunting, underweight, anaemia and low birth weight by 2022.
- POSHAN Abhiyaan is a multi-ministerial convergence mission with the vision to ensure the attainment of malnutrition-free India by 2022. It will create synergy, ensure better monitoring, issue alerts for timely action, and encourage States/UTs to perform, guide and supervise the line Ministries and States/UTs to achieve the targeted goals.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) is implementing POSHAN Abhiyaan in 315 Districts in the first year, 235 Districts in the second year; and remaining districts will be covered in the third year.
- For the implementation of POSHAN Abhiyaan, the four-point strategy/pillars of the mission are:
 - Inter-sectoral convergence for better service delivery
 - Use of technology (ICT) for real-time growth monitoring and tracking of women and children
 - Intensified health and nutrition services for the first 1000 days
 - Jan Andolan

Funding Pattern:

- The POSHAN Abhiyaan was launched with a total budget of ₹9,046.17 crores for three years.
- 50% of the sanctioned amount would be through budgetary support of the governments. The remaining 50% is from the World Bank or other multilateral development banks.
- The budgetary support amount is further divided into 60:40 between the Centre and the States, 90:10 for the north-eastern region and the Himalayan States, and 100% for the Union Territories without legislature

An analysis of the funds utilised under the scheme paints a grim picture.

- The State governments and the Union Territories have utilised only 30% of the funds released under the POSHAN Abhiyaan, since 2017.
- Except for Mizoram, Lakshadweep, Himachal Pradesh and Bihar, none of the governments

Innovative IAS & KAS Coaching Centre

Mobile: 9880088777 / Ph: 080 - 40977456

No. 37, 1st Floor, Next to SBI Bank, Ganganagar, RT Nagar, Bengaluru - 32



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has used even 50% of the sum granted.

- During the financial year of 2019-20, funds under the scheme were released for 19 States even though 12 of these states had used less than a third of the funds released in the previous two years.

Reasons:

- The POSHAN Abhiyaan programme has been conceptualised to be implemented in phases. The fund utilisation is generally slow in the initial phase of such incremental schemes.
- A number of activities which have been planned under the scheme like the Integrated Child Development Services-Common Application Software meant to monitor anganwadis have had a slow start.
- Lack of political will and action to tackle the issue of malnutrition is the major reason why the governments have failed to utilise the available funds under the scheme.

Madhya Pradesh's first elephant colony.

- Elephants are generally migratory in nature and often travel hundreds of miles to look for newer habitats with enough food and water. They generally tend to return to their habitats at the end of the migratory period.
- However, a new pattern has been observed in the forests of Bandhavgarh in Madhya Pradesh. An elephant herd which had moved from the withering forests of north Chhattisgarh into the forests of Bandhavgarh looking for food and water has stayed back for the first time over seasons and even bred two new calves.
- The herd has found plenty of space, food and water within the core area of the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, and that might be the primary reason for their not returning to the forests of north Chattisgarh.

Consequences:

- The 'Tiger State' of Madhya Pradesh, which in the 2019 census recorded the most number of estimated tigers at 526, thus securing the title, presently has no know-how on dealing with elephants.
- The increased presence of elephants might lead to increased instances of man-animal conflicts. The local forest staff will need to be imparted training on the techniques to avert man-animal conflicts.
- The possibility of conflict between the elephant herd and tigers is slim given that both animals can coexist within the same territory. Given their dietary differences there is no competition between the two species. The presence of elephants will not alter the movement of tigers in the area.



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Tests for unmanned mission by 2020-end, says ISRO chief

Why in news?

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) planning its first unmanned test mission of the Gaganyaan mission.

Key points:

- Gaganyaan will be the first manned space mission of ISRO which is proposed to be launched by 2022.
- India has already successfully developed and tested several building blocks, including re-entry space capsule, pad abort test, safe crew ejection mechanism in case of rocket failure, flight suit developed by DEBEL and the powerful GSLV-MkIII launch vehicle.
- The orbital and re-entry mission and recovery operations have been flight demonstrated in Space Capsule Re-entry Experiment (SRE) mission.
- Having met all required technological keystones, the Indian Human Spaceflight Programme was accepted and formally announced by the Prime Minister on 15 August 2018.
- Gaganyaan is an Indian crewed orbital spacecraft intended to be the basis of the Indian Human Spaceflight Programme.
- Gaganyaan is expected to carry three people into space for seven days. The largely autonomous capsule will orbit the Earth in the low earth orbit of 300-400 Km.
- The crewed vehicle is planned to be launched on ISRO's GSLV Mk III in December 2021. HAL has manufactured the crew module.
- With this, India could potentially become the fourth country to send a man to space, after the erstwhile USSR, the US and China. Denmark also has a manned space flight scheduled for 2022.

Details:

- Two unmanned Gaganyaan missions will be undertaken prior to sending humans.
- As per ISRO schedule, the first and second unmanned flights would be sent in orbit within 30 and 36 months beginning from August 2018.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is planning to fly the first unmanned test mission carrying a humanoid ahead of its crewed Gaganyaan mission.

General studies: 2

India needs a bottom-up growth model

In the backdrop of the steady decline in the economic growth rates in India, the author of this article offers a critique of the growth model opted by India and suggests an alternative.

Key points:

Comparison between India and China:

- China and India, the two most populous countries in the world, achieved independence at around the same time and both were at similar developmental stages when they started out



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as independent nations.

- More than 70 years later, China has progressed much faster. India, on the other hand, is yet to reach the development indicators that China attained back in the early 1990s.
- The approach taken by the two countries to ensure prosperity for their citizens has been markedly different. While China adopted a people-centric policy India has adopted the growth-centric approach.

People-centric policies:

- The Chinese model of growth:
The Communist Party of China demands that local officials address the needs of citizens effectively. Singapore's government also follows a similar approach.
- The Indian model of growth:
Within India itself there have been different models of development. The Constitution of India enables its States to adopt different models of development.
- Notable growth models in India include the 'Kerala model', the 'Gujarat model' and the 'common man's model' being implemented in Delhi.
- The Kerala Model of growth:
Local, participative governance has been a distinction of Kerala's model and the State has been well ahead of the rest of the country, matching China in its Human Development Indicators in education, health, and women's inclusion.
- Delhi's common man's model:
Delhi's government has adopted a people-centric model of government. One of the major interventions of the government was in the field of education.
- The establishment of School Management Committees with parental involvement to monitor schools.
- Teacher training budget has been raised five-fold.
- The performance of Delhi's government schools has been impressive. The performance of government schools now exceeds the performance of private schools in Delhi.
- Public health expenditure has been increased steadily and now stands almost doubled compared to five years ago. 'Mohalla clinics' have been set up in poor colonies to provide accessible and affordable health care.
- The government has focused on providing basic facilities like piped water and electricity to poor and unauthorised colonies.
- An analysis of the outcome of the above schemes as computed by the government shows that its programmes for improving the 'ease of living' of citizens have increased savings per family by ₹4,000 per month. The increase in disposable incomes has resulted in additional consumer-buying power, estimated at ₹24,000 crores per annum.

Ineffectiveness of the 'Ease of Doing Business' approach:

- An analysis of the different growth models and their effects prove that growth must be bottom-up to be equitable and sustainable.



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- India has climbed many rungs on the World Bank's 'Ease of Business' rankings. Yet, investments to increase production have not increased much because consumer demand has slumped, even for basic items.
- There has been growing anger amongst the citizens against the globalisation paradigm which suggests a growth-centric model of development. Citizens want their governments to generate more jobs domestically and to implement policies that increase incomes at the bottom of the pyramid rather than facilitating only further growth at the top.
- There is plenty of evidence to show that India has not benefitted from the opening of its economy and liberalisation post-1991. India's decision to not be part of the RCEP deal shows that India is now standing up to pressure from the Washington Consensus economists who continue to advocate that more free trade is the solution to India's economic problems.

The Indian context:

- India ranks very low in terms of human development in the domain of education and health. In spite of India being a larger economy it ranks lower than its poorer subcontinental neighbours in terms of the Human Development Index.
- India is the most water-stressed large economy in the world. Indian cities rank among the most polluted in the world.
- India's economic growth is not generating enough jobs for its burgeoning population of youth. The employment elasticity of India's growth (numbers of jobs created with growth) is amongst the worst in the world. Unemployment of persons with vocational education has gone up between 2011-12 and 2017-18, from 18.5% to 33%.
- India's complex, socio-economic environmental system is under great stress. India needs to improve on many fronts simultaneously balancing the mostly opposing objectives of social equity, economic growth and environmental sustainability.

Telangana Industrial Health Clinic

- The Telangana Industrial Health Clinic Ltd. (TIHCL), an initiative of the State government to handhold Micro and Small Manufacturing Enterprises (MSMEs) from slipping into sickness, is ready to extend its services at pan India level.
- Telangana Industrial Health Clinic Limited
- It was established in 2018 as a fintech Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC). It is a diagnostic and curative industry initiative for MSMEs.
- It is promoted by the State Government of Telangana and supported by Telangana Industrial Development Corporation (TSIDC).

Objectives:

- To ensure healthy MSMEs through responsive counselling and responsible consulting and other mentoring services
- To engage MSMEs in strong and consistent financial performance through better



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compliance standards

- To support & enrich a sustainable working environment that attracts, retains and develops committed team sharing common values
- To play the role of advocacy in assuring prompt payment by the vendees of MSMEs
- To propel potential MSMEs to equity platforms like the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).
- Corpus: It has a corpus of Rs.100 Crores, with an initial contribution of Rs.10 Cr. from State Government of Telangana, Rs.50 Cr. from Government of India, and the rest through equity holding from MSMEs, Banks and Financial Institutions, etc.
- The TIHCL has been managing with just one-tenth (contribution made by the State government) of the originally envisaged ₹100 crore corpus fund, making it eligible for Central government funding in order to fulfill the industry demand.
- Investment: In terms of its investment, it is up to ₹25 lakh per unit. Its portfolio of products comprises of bridge loan, stressed assets finance, credit financing and margin amount funding.
- For women entrepreneurs, it offers these services at a concessional rate of interest under NARI scheme. It also provides composite loans with flexible repayments and withdrawals to new micro and small enterprises established by women.

Prelims Facts:

Efforts on to make the 'biggest youth event' memorable one: Sonowal

- The third Khelo India Youth Games is to be held in Guwahati from January 10 to 22, 2019.
- Khelo India Youth Games, formerly Khelo India School Games (KISG) is held annually in January or February.
- It is the national level multidisciplinary games in India held for two categories, namely under-17 years school students and under-21 college students.
- To identify talent at grassroots level, each sport has a dedicated talent hunt committee, who will identify top 2 sportspersons for each sport (totalling 1000 kids) and they will be given an annual scholarship of INR 50000 for 8 years to prepare them for international sporting events.

More naval personnel may be held for spying: A.P. DGP

- Under 'Operation Dolphin's Nose', sleuths of Andhra Pradesh Intelligence, the Navy and the Central intelligence wings busted the espionage racket and arrested seven Navy sailors.
- The police, arrested seven Navy sailors of Visakhapatnam, Karwar and Mumbai naval bases and a Mumbai-based hawala operator on charges of leaking secret information to Pakistan.
- The hawala operator, who had links with Pakistani handlers, targeted the young Indian Navy officers and honey-trapped them by using some women on various social media sites.



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Tropical cyclone Sarai

- Tropical cyclone Sarai hit Fiji on December 28, 2019, causing widespread damage.
- It is a category two tropical cyclone and is moving east towards the Tongan waters at nearly 10 kmh speed.
- It is expected to have average winds of up to 110km/hr with momentary gusts to 150km/hr close to its centre.

Red sand boa snake

- Recently, a red sand boa snake (*Eryxjohnii*), worth around ₹1.25 crore, was rescued from five persons, who were trying to sell it in Madhya Pradesh.
- It is a rare non-poisonous snake that is used for making certain medicines, cosmetics and in black magic, and is in huge demand in the international market.
- It is found in whole of India excluding North-east states after North-Bengal; also not found in Indian islands.
- Among layman it is famous as "Two-headed Snake" due to the presence of very thick tail having rounded end.
- The trade and possession of the red sand boa is an offence under the Wildlife Protection Act 1972. The species is listed under Schedule 4 of the Act. Also, it is listed in CITES Appendix II.

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